



**JAMAICAN
CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION**

**Working Together;
Growing Together**

1621 Dupont Street
Toronto, Ontario M6P 3S8
(416) 535-4476

LOCATION

The Jamaican Canadian Association is located at 1621 Dupont Street in Toronto. Its facilities include an auditorium, a meeting room and offices. Offices are open to the public Mondays to Fridays. The auditorium is the focal point of many community events. The administrative office is at 1621 Dupont Street; other offices are located in the Jane-Finch area and at the Lawrence Heights Community Centre.

MANAGEMENTS

The Jamaican Canadian Association is an incorporated organization and is registered for taxation purposes. It is governed by a volunteer board elected by its members. An Executive Director is responsible for its day-to-day operation. A number of standing committees, education, social, membership, building and fundraising, chaired by a member of the board, which carry out activities approved by the Board.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Jamaican Canadian Association are:

- To provide social interaction among members and to facilitate desirable relations with the Canadian Society.
- To provide advocacy for and represent the Caribbean Community on public matters which affect their welfare, adjustment and integration, and satisfactory development.
- To identify and respond to diverse and expanding social service needs of its constituents.
- To facilitate the economic, social and cultural integration of Caribbean people within the Canadian Society.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

The Jamaican Canadian Association operates a variety of programs aimed at responding to needs within the community. Some of these include:

Caribbean Youth and Family Services

Working co-operatively with schools and families, the staff provides preventative and supportive counselling to young people and their families. The staff provides leadership development sessions, life skills training and educational support programs aimed at improving the growth, development and ultimate success of participants. The office is located at 2065 Finch Avenue West and can be reached at 740-1558.

Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program

The staff provides counselling and assistance to new immigrants and to persons holding work permits, to facilitate settlement and adaptation. Other services include advise on sponsorship, employment referrals, assistance in securing accommodation, school registration and placements as well as help in accessing service institutions and agencies.

Youth Development Programs

The Lawrence Heights Community Centre is the location of special youth development programs. These initiatives are directed towards young people age 11 to 21 who encounter difficulties in the school system. Through diverse approaches such as sports, music and contact with community mentors, participants are motivated to improve their adjustment and achievement.

Multicultural Community Outreach

These initiatives are aimed at promoting links between Caribbean and other communities. Seminars and workshops are conducted to examine intercultural issues. The Association maintains close working relationship with other agencies and cultural groups. A newsletter "IN-FOCUS," published regularly, deals with activities of the Association and issues of interest. It is widely distributed within the community.

Other Programs

Cultural enrichment and Summer programs provide a blend of educational experiences, arts and crafts and recreational activities for young people in various locations during the year. These facilitate the improvement of communication skills and the broadening of the student's understanding and appreciation of the multicultural society, and facilitates the development of strong leadership among young adults.

Women Abuse/Assault Counselling Service

Women from the Black community who are experiencing abuse/assault can receive help in dealing with such incidences. The counsellor will provide counselling, support, advocacy, referral, and escort when ever the situation requires it.

Programs for Seniors

A program for seniors is in place, enabling participants to socialize and pursue issues of common interest. Seniors are engaged in a variety of activities, which help them to understand and deal with issues that affect

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A program for seniors is in place, enabling participants to socialize and pursue issues of common interest. Seniors are engaged in a variety of activities, which help them to understand and deal with issues that affect

their lives. They participate in workshops and seminars that provide information on the following topics: Family relationship, Income and pension, Health and Nutrition, Housing and Home care and Safety and Security.

The senior's program also provides recreational activities which help them to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

JCA Women's Committee

- The women's Committee provides an avenue to work with women of all ages with similar cultural background.
- Work with other women's groups to address issues of concerns to women.
- Provide support and resource to women.
- Assist with fundraising for the JCA.

Jamaican Canadian (Toronto) Credit Union

Established in 1964, this Credit Union operates from the Jamaican Canadian Centre and serves the financial needs of the members.

Funding

Funding sources of our various programs include: Employment and Immigration Canada, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Community Services Division of Metropolitan Toronto, United Way, Charitable Foundations, Private Donors and special fundraising events.

HISTORY

The Jamaican Canadian Association was established in 1962, coinciding with the granting of nationhood to Jamaica. The basic objective was to respond to the expanding needs of an increasing and diverse immigrant Caribbean population. Specifically, these included:

- Discrimination in housing
- Immigrant problems
- Settlement and adjustment
- Community / Police Conflicts
- Bridging cultural links with the Canadian society.

Consistent with our mandate of providing leadership and responding to community needs, the Association achieved significant successes in the following areas:

- Intervened and secured the certification and acceptance of Caribbean elementary school teachers to teach in the Ontario school system.
- Intervened and secured financial settlement in a Human Rights Code dispute between a major corporation and a group of Caribbean skilled workers.
- Instituted and secured educational upgrading classes for Black students in selected Metro schools..
- Spearheaded testing of rental accommodation for breach of the Human Rights Code.
- Advocated for better police-community relations. Presented briefs to a number of commissions on policing.
- Alerted Boards of Education to the special needs of Caribbean students and the need to appoint special persons to deal with needs.